

Willenhall
Urban District Council

ANNUAL
REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of
Health

for the Year

1939

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

JAMES L. GREGORY, M.B., CH.B., F.R.F.P.S., D.P.H., D.T.M. & HY.

Sanitary Inspectors :

S. D. WRIGHT, CERTIF. R.S.I. (resigned 31.10.39.)

B. J. DAWSON, CERTIF. S.I.B.

J. P. MICHAEL, CERT. S.I.B. (appointed 13.9.39.)

Health Visitors and School Nurses :

MISS E. BELL, S.R.N., S.C.M.

MISS J. CRAIG, S.R.N., S.C.M.

MISS K. LEWIS, S.R.N., S.C.M.

MISS M. McKEAN, S.R.N., S.C.M.

MISS J. McKENZIE, S.R.N., S.C.M.

MISS A. STEEL, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Bacteriologist :

DR. J. MENTON

County Laboratory, Stafford

Tuberculosis Officer :

DR. A. SCOTT

Bell Street Dispensary, Wolverhampton

District Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator :

DR. T. M. CRAWFORD

Bloxwich Road, Willenhall

Clerk :

MISS M. SQUIRE

ANNUAL REPORT

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1939

COUNCIL OFFICES,
WILLENHALL.

1ST. OCTOBER, 1940

To the Chairman and Members of the Willenhall Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the health of the district for the year ending 31st. December, 1939.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The vital statistics are satisfactory when compared with those for the country generally.

The estimated resident population for mid-1939 is 28.320.

The Birth-Rate was 22.2 per 1,000 of the population.

The Death-Rate was 10.1 ('crude' death-rate) and 12.0 ('corrected' death-rate) per 1,000 of the population.

The Infant Mortality Rate again fell and was 49 per 1,000 births, this being the lowest rate ever recorded in the district and lower than that for the country generally.

In 1937 and 1938 the rates were 79 and 64 respectively.

The Maternal Mortality Rate is also low—1.53 per 1,000 (live and still) births. (England and Wales=2.82.)

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The notification rate of the principal infectious diseases was 4.86 of the population. (England and Wales 4.43.)

Scarlet Fever and Pneumonia were again the commonest of these infections.

The protection of children against Diphtheria has been continued and 60% of all the children in the schools have now been protected. In the age group 5-10 years the percentage protected is 74.

Attention is being paid also to children under school age as it is essential that they also should be protected.

The total number of children protected so far—ages 1 to 15 years—is approximately 3,000.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The total number of names on the register at the end of the year was 281. Of these cases 225 were of the Pulmonary type and 56 of the non-pulmonary type.

I am glad to report that the number of new cases fell to 37 as against 53 in 1938, and the deaths numbered 20 as against 28.

The death rate was 0.80 per 1,000 of the population. This rate is considerably above that of the country as a whole for this disease. (England and Wales 0.63 per 1,000 in 1939.)

It is becoming more and more evident that the eradication of this disease is a social problem as well as a medical one and that more effort should be made to prevent new cases rather than attempting to cure established cases.

At present large sums are being expended on Sanatoria throughout the country but very little is being done to improve the home conditions of the families where this disease has a hold. As a result we see one member after another in a family going down with Tuberculosis and all the cases can be traced back to the first one who was probably highly infectious but had to share a room with others in the family and thus infected them.

In this area fifty tubercular families have been re-housed in the last five years, but there are still a number of such families who require houses in order that the patient may have a bed-room to himself.

HOUSING

Owing to the War the building of new houses has been seriously interfered with.

Over-crowding is still prevalent in the district and so far little has been done to abate it. The Minister of Health is reported to have stated that by the end of 1937 30% of the over-crowding in Urban Districts as revealed by the survey made in 1935-36 had been abated. While this may be true of the country taken as a whole it certainly is not applicable to this area where only a very few of the worst cases have been relieved. The need here is for a larger type of house than has been built formerly, one which would accommodate families of seven persons or more.

The survey revealed the fact that we have here more than 200 families in this category and it is to be hoped that, when times are again normal, no delay will be experienced in getting this urgent matter put right.

GENERAL

The attendances at the Ante-natal Clinic and at the Infant Welfare Centres have again increased and during the year 80% of all expectant mothers and 80% of all children born have attended at one or other of the Centres.

The scheme for providing milk in necessitous cases has proved of great value and it is more than a coincidence that within a year of its commencement the deaths of infants have fallen to the lowest figure recorded in this area.

The Clinic at Walsall Road is being enlarged and will soon be ready when it should prove a great improvement. The proposed new Centre at Portobello has not yet been commenced.

In conclusion I would like to thank all those who have co-operated in the work of the Health Department during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES L. GREGORY,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF WILLENHALL 1939

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-

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SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Urban District of Willenhall

Area	2,834 acres
Population : 1931 Census	26,195
1939. Estimated figures of the Registrar General for mid-year (a)	28,320
(a) Resident. (b) Average. (b)	28,440
Number of Persons per acre	10
Number of Inhabited Houses	7,498
Number of Houses per acre	2.6
Average number of Persons per house	3.8
Rateable Value of the District	£111,165
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	£425

Social Conditions..

The chief industries are lock and latch making, iron and brass founding, drop forging, distributive trades, and miscellaneous metal trades.

The number of insured persons is 14,080, which number is about half of the population. I am indebted to Mr. A. Ridsdill, Manager of the Employment Exchange for particulars regarding the general trade conditions, unemployment and juvenile employment.

General Trade Conditions.

During the year 1939, there was a considerable improvement in local trade resulting in a considerable decrease in the number of persons unemployed. By the month of December the total number of unemployed work-people had dropped to 392 which figure is the lowest for the last ten years.

Since the out-break of war, the armament programme and air raid precautions resulted in increased activity in the principal local industries.

UNEMPLOYMENT

	Men 18-65	Women 18-65	Boys 14-17	Girls 14-17	Total
Wholly Unemployed	337	268	1	6	612
Temporarily suspended	141	73	5	4	223
	<hr/> 478	<hr/> 341	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 10	<hr/> 835

Juvenile Employment.

Owing to the continued improvement in trade there has been a good demand for juvenile labour and at no time during the year has it been difficult for a boy or girl to find work in the local factories.

During the year 590 juveniles have been individually advised and on the whole the results have been satisfactory.

Only one juvenile from the special areas was transferred to this district compared with twenty in 1938 and 259 in 1937. Up to the end of August instructional visits were paid to factories as in former years and school conferences were held. These were however suspended after war began.

Public Medical Service.

There are now 5,056 subscribers to this service in the Willenhall area and this number is substantially the same as in the previous two years. It will be recalled that under this scheme subscribers insure themselves and their families against the expense which might accompany illness. Free choice of doctor is allowed and from all points of view the scheme is one which deserves the support of every family in the district who wish to ensure that they will not be faced by bills for medical attendance in the case of sickness or accident.

The charges are 3d. per week per person, 6d. per week for persons over 50 years of age, and in the case of families of four or more persons, 1/- per week. The charges are collected by collectors employed by the Medical Service.

Housing Conditions.

In reporting on the social conditions of any district the question of how the inhabitants are housed is one of great importance. In spite of what has been done to improve matters as regards both unfit houses and over-crowding there still remains in this area a great number of houses which are unfit and others which are over-crowded. When it is again possible to do so this matter will have to be taken up by the Council and really tackled in a comprehensive manner. The high rate of infant mortality combined with the high incidence of tuberculosis in this area are both indicators that the standard of housing among the poorer people is far from what it should be, and if these two factors are to be reduced then the first step must be to make sure that proper housing is available.

**EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR
1939**

		Total	Males	Females
Live Births—	Legitimate	607	312	295
	Illegitimate	22	13	9
Totals		629	325	304

Birth Rate per 1,000 Estimated Resident Population
(mid 1939) = 22.2

Still Births—	Legitimate	22	9	13
	Illegitimate	1	1	—
Totals		23	10	13

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births = 35.2

Deaths	289	157	132
--------	-------	-------	-------	-----	-----	-----

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated average population = 10.1
Corrected Death Rate = 12.0

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

a.	No. 29—Puerperal Sepsis	.....	.....	1
	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births	=		1.53
b.	No. 30—Other Puerperal Causes	.....		Nil
	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births	.....		Nil
	TOTAL PUERPERAL DEATHS	.....		1
	DEATH RATE	.....	.....	1.53

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

All Infants per 1,000 live births	.....	.....	.....	49
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	.....	.....		47
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 live illegitimate births				91
Total number of Infant deaths	.....	.....	.....	31
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.....	.....	.....	36
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	.....			2

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The total number of births registered in the district was 629 (males 325, females 304).

Of these births 22 were illegitimate (male 13, female 9).

The number of still births was 23, which gives a rate of 35.2 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

If the still birth rate is calculated per 1,000 of the population it is 0.81. (England and Wales=0.59.)

The Birth Rate for the district is therefore 22.2 per 1,000 of the population which figure is much higher than that of the whole country. (Birth Rate=15.0.)

Deaths

The total number of deaths registered was 289 (males 157, females 132).

The “ crude ” death rate is therefore 10.1 per 1,000. Before this is compared with the death rates of other areas or with that of the country in general it has to be multiplied by the “ comparability ” factor which for this area is 1.19.

This gives a “ corrected ” death rate of 12.0 and compares favourably with the rate for the country as a whole which is 12.1.

With regard to the chief causes of death the following are the diseases causing the greatest number of deaths :—

Disease	Number of Deaths
Heart Disease	65
Cancer	36
Cerebral Haemorrhage	20
TUBERCULOSIS	20
Other Circulatory Diseases	16
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth	16
Senility	15
Bronchitis	14
Pneumonia	14
Total	<hr/> 216 <hr/>

These nine causes account for 74% of all the deaths. Deaths from Tuberculosis have fallen by eight, and those from Pneumonia by fifteen. There are also five fewer deaths from heart disease and three fewer from Cancer compared with the previous year.

Natural Increase in Population

The number of births exceeded the number of deaths by 340.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Staff

A list of officials of the Health Department—whole time and part time—will be found at the beginning of this report.

On the 31st. October, Mr. S. D. Wright who had been Sanitary Inspector for 34 years resigned his appointment and retired on pension. Mr. Wright had seen many changes in the area and his long period of service to the town has been much appreciated by all who have been associated with him.

Mr. B. J. Dawson was appointed Senior Sanitary Inspector and Mr. J. P. Michael commenced duties as an Inspector on the 13th. September.

During the year the County Council appointed two additional Health Visitors and School Nurses—Miss J. B. McKenzie and Miss A. Steel—so that there are now six Health Visitors in the area.

Laboratory Facilities

Full use has been made during the year of the County Laboratory, Stafford. In both the Bacteriological and Chemical Departments great help has been given in the examination of various specimens and water supplies, etc. and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Dr. Menton and Mr. Jones and their Staffs for their co-operation during the year.

The following details of the work done in the Bacteriological Laboratory have kindly been supplied by Dr. Menton.

EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED—1939

Swabs for Diphtheria	.....	.....	128	(comprising 201 examinations— 23 positive).
Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci			11	

EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED—1939 (*continued*).

Grouping of Haemolytic Streptococci	1	
Sputa for tubercle bacilli	24	(2 positive)
Sputa for other organisms	4	
Sputum for cytological examination	1	
Pus for		
" "		
and bacteriological exam.	1	
Faeces for bacillus typhosus etc.	1	
General Examination of Urine	1	
Bacteriological Examinations of		
drinking water	21	
Milk Samples	21	(including 11 submitted under instructions from the Ministry of Health.)

A copy of a recent report on the water supply will be found under Section C. of this report.

Ambulance Facilities

From 1st. April, 1939, till 31st. March, 1940, the ambulance was used to convey 513 cases to Hospital and the mileage travelled was 4,670 miles.

Nursing in the Home

This is undertaken by the Nurses and Mid-Wives of the District Nursing Association, and I am again indebted to Mr. Arthur Webster, the Honorary Secretary, for the following details regarding the work undertaken by the Nurses and Mid-wives during the year ending 31st. March, 1940.

There are three general trained nurses and six mid-wives employed by the Association and the work done during the year has again increased. In the general section the following figures give some idea of the patients treated.

New Cases

Medical	360
Surgical	178
	<hr/>
	538
	<hr/>

Number of Visits Paid

Medical	.....	10,307
Surgical	.....	3,527
		<hr/>
		13,834
		<hr/>

In addition 1,144 visits have been paid by patients to the Nurses' Homes, and 31 casual cases have been seen.

Treatment Centres and Clinics

In this area the School Clinics, Infant Welfare Centres, and Ante Natal Centres are under the control of the County Council, but as they form an important section of the Health Services, the following particulars are given in this report.

School Clinics

These are two in number, one of which is held at the Nurses' Home, Walsall Street, Willenhall, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9-30 a.m., a doctor being in attendance on Mondays only.

The Short Heath Clinic is held on Fridays at 9-30 a.m. at the old Church School, Coltham Road, Short Heath, when a doctor attends. Eye cases are seen usually on alternate Thursdays by Dr. Williamson, and the Dental Clinic is in Albion Road.

There is need for a daily School Clinic in Willenhall, and this was formerly the arrangement but owing to the premises being needed for other work the School Children can only attend on three days a week.

Milk Scheme in Schools

This scheme has been in operation since October, 1935. The percentage of children getting milk either free or at a cheap rate has again increased, being now 64% of the numbers on the rolls.

The number getting milk free was 415 and those paying for it 1,992, a total of 2,407. The milk supplied is Pasteurised and samples are taken by the Inspector at intervals. It will be

thus seen that this scheme has worked well in the area. Under-nourished children whose parents cannot afford to buy milk for them get two one third pint bottles a day and are weighed to observe if they gain weight.

Ante-Natal Centres

There are now three Sessions held—Tuesdays forenoon and afternoon, and Fridays, afternoon—all at the Nurses' Home, Walsall Street.

A Lady Doctor is in attendance and the Mid-Wives are usually present with their patients, and if any abnormal condition is discovered at the examination the mid-wives are informed of it so that such action as may be deemed necessary may be taken.

The attendances during the year were as follows:—

Number of New Cases	.....	.....	518
Total number of consultations	.....	.....	1,818

The number of new cases again shows an increase compared with the previous years. The number of notified births (live and still) was 652 and therefore the percentage of expectant mothers attending the Centre was 79%. For comparison the percentage attendances for the last three years are given and also the similar figures for the country as a whole. From these it will be seen that the percentage attending at Willenhall is higher than the percentage attending for the country generally.

	1937	1938	1939
WILLENHALL	65.7%	83%	79%
ENGLAND	54.19%	60.6%	—

Extra Nourishment

Under the County Council's Scheme such of the expectant mothers as cannot afford to buy milk can be granted a free supply at the Centre.

This scheme has not been taken advantage of as much as one would have hoped as there must be many mothers who would be the better for extra milk during pregnancy.

Infant Welfare Centres

ATTENDANCES—1939

Centre	Under 1 Year		1—5 Years		Totals.
	1st. visits	Re- visits	1st. visits	Re- visits	
Willenhall	336	4,952	84	3,286	8,658
Short Heath	87	1,604	23	883	2,597
Portobello	83	1,455	40	1,623	3,201
Totals	506	8,011	147	5,792	14,456

The total attendances in 1938 were 10,251 and thus the increase in attendances numbered 4,205.

The total number of live births during the year was 629 and therefore the percentage of attendances for the first time of children under 1 year per 100 live births was 80%.

The percentage for the previous four years was as follows :—
1935=51% 1936=54% 1937=70% 1938=63%

These growing figures testify to the value of the work done at the Centres and the fact that the infants are carefully watched during their first few years and advised regarding treatment when this is required is having a very evident effect on their nutrition and their health. There can be no possible doubt that the next generation of school children will be stronger and healthier than those who have gone before.

Free Milk Scheme

This scheme has now been in operation since August, 1938, and is working smoothly. The number of children getting milk free has varied from 60 to 90 per month.

Enquiries are made in each case to ensure that only really necessitous cases are granted the milk free. Those able to buy it can get it at a very reduced rate.

The value of such a scheme in an area such as this is very great as without proper nourishment there can be no chance of children growing up strong and healthy.

The cost of the free milk supplied during the year was £410-14-8.

Hospitals (Public and Voluntary)

There have been no changes during the year as regards hospital accommodation in the area. The various Hospitals in the neighbourhood are made full use of by the people of this area. Infectious Diseases are still treated mainly at the Walsall Corporation's Hospital at Goscote although a few cases have been sent to the Hospitals at Wolverhampton and Bilston when the first named hospital was full.

Of the total number of deaths in the area during the year namely 289, 94 took place in one or other of the hospitals. This equals 33% of the total.

The institutions in which these deaths took place were as follows :—

Hospital	Number of Deaths
Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton	30
Wordsley Hospital	25
New Cross Hospital	13
Women's Hospital, Wolverhampton	10
Prestwood Sanatorium	4
County Mental Hospital	4
Goscote Isolation Hospital	1
W'ton. Borough Isolation Hospital	1
Queen Victoria's Nursing Institution	1
Burton House, Sedgley	5
Total	94

Sanitary Inspection of Area

Details of all inspections and of notices served and improvements carried out will be found in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector (Mr. B. J. Dawson) and in the tables accompanying the report.

It will be seen that 3,080 inspections were carried out and that 1,343 improvements were carried out as a result of notices being served.

Disinfestation is also dealt with and it will be noticed that 135 houses were disinfested.

Schools

These are inspected and reported on three times in the year. Any matter requiring attention is reported to the Managers through the County Education Office.

In general the schools are satisfactory although four of them are older than the others and will be dealt with under the Education Committee's scheme of re-construction. Central Senior Boys' School and Portobello Junior and Infant School have already been dealt with and are now very much improved as regards air space, light and sanitary arrangements generally.

The water supplies are all from the main supply.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The main water supply for the district is obtained from the Wolverhampton Corporation and comes from deep wells at Cosford, Dimmingsdale and Tettenhall.

The following are reports on samples taken on 2nd. June, 1939.

Chemical Analysis :	Parts per 100,000
Total solid matter dried at 212 degs. F.	34.00
Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0023
Nitric Nitrogen	0.24
Chlorine	2.7
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80 degs. F.	0.016
Appearance	Nearly Clear
Injurious Metallic Contamination	None
pH Value	7.2

This water is chemically of satisfactory quality, and if passed bacteriologically, may be considered safe for drinking.

(Signed) ERNEST V. JONES, F.I.C.,
County Analyst.

Bacteriological Report

COUNT : On nutrient agar after 48 hours' incubation at 37 degs. C. 12 colonies per ml.

On nutrient agar after 72 hours' incubation at 20-22 degs. C. 56 colonies per ml.

COLI AEROGENES CONTENT

(presumptive coli) : after 48 hours' incubation at 37 degs. C. none per 100 ml.

REMARKS :

This sample shows no bacteriological evidence of recent sewage pollution.

(Signed) J. MENTON,
Bacteriologist.

Drainage and Sewerage

I am indebted to Mr. N. D. Martin, the Council's Surveyor and Engineer, for the following particulars regarding new sewers and drains laid down during the year.

SNEYD LANE SEWER. 9in. pipes connecting up Short Heath main drainage with Cannock Rural District Sewer in Sneyd Lane. (Length 313 lin. yards.)

MIDLAND ROAD SEWER. Connecting up new factories of Messrs. Rubery Owen. (Length = 101 lin. yards).

ESSINGTON ROAD SEWER. To drain new houses. (Length = 50 lin. yards).

SHORT HEATH MAIN DRAINAGE SCHEME. This work is nearing completion.

Sewage Disposal Works

On the 12th. July, 1939, a sample of the sewage effluent was taken and the following is a copy of the analysis of the sample.

					Parts per 100,000
Total Solid Matter dried at 212 degs. F.					91.00
of which in suspension					16.00
Mineral Suspended Matter	.....	.....	.....	.....	6.20
Organic Suspended Matter	.....	.....	.....	.....	9.80
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	.....	.....	.....	.....	5.7200
Albuminoid Nitrogen	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.4280
Nitric Nitrogen	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Chlorine	.....	.....	.....	.....	19.5
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80 degs. F.					3.950
Dissolved Oxygen absorbed in 5 days at					
(65 degs. F.)					At least 15.8
Incubation Test	.....	.....	.....	.....	Putrescent

(Signed) FREDERICK DIXON, B.SC., F.I.C.

During the year 32 names were removed from the Register for the undermentioned reasons :—

Died	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
Recovered	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Left District	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Diagnosis not confirmed	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Total					32

New Cases

During the year the following new cases were notified to me on Form “ A ” (primary notification) or came to my notice otherwise than by notification.

		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
		M.	F.	M.	F.	
Notified on Form “ A ”	.....	17	12	4	1	34
From death returns	.....	—	1	2	—	3

It will be seen that three out of the thirty-seven new cases were not notified before death. This equals 8% and is better than in 1938 when 23% of the new cases were not notified before death.

The number of new cases is the lowest since the year 1924 when only 24 new cases were notified. If we are to reduce the mortality from this disease the first step will be to reduce the number of new cases so that it is encouraging to observe that there has been a drop in these this year.

One must not however be too sanguine as to this decrease continuing as the conditions which foster the spread of tuberculosis are still present. Over-crowding, lack of proper food and working in crowded and dusty work-shops are all pre-disposing factors and until more is done to remove these bad conditions we cannot expect matters to improve very much.

Deaths

There were 23 deaths from tuberculosis of which 20 were from the pulmonary type and 3 from the non-pulmonary.

The following figures show the percentages of pulmonary cases notified on Form " A " and dying before the end of the same year in which they were notified.

1933	.....	.....	.....	30.0%
1934	.....	.....	.....	17.5%
1935	.....	.....	.....	13.3%
1936	.....	.....	.....	13.3%
1937	.....	.....	.....	15.0%
1938	.....	.....	.....	16.6%
1939	.....	.....	.....	31.0%

There is no failure on the part of Medical Practitioners to notify cases and full use is made of the Tuberculosis Dispensary at Bell Street, Wolverhampton.

Non-notified deaths from Tuberculosis numbered 3 and as the total tuberculosis deaths numbered 23 the ratio was 3 : 23 or 13%.

Sanatorium Treatment

During the year 22 patients were admitted to Sanatoria and 31 were discharged.

The average duration of stay has been approximately 16-5/7th. weeks.

Of the deaths from this disease 13 took place at the patients' homes, 4 in Sanatoria and 5 in Hospital. These figures are similar to those for previous years and are not very satisfactory as it would be better if hopeless cases of Tuberculosis could remain in Sanatoria till their death took place.

Housing of Tubercular Families

During the year four families have been allotted better houses under the Council's Scheme for re-housing tubercular families who are over-crowded.

Since 1935 fifty families have been re-housed.

STATISTICAL TABLES

1939

1. ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, ETC.
2. CAUSES OF DEATHS.
3. INFANTILE MORTALITY.
4. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
5. TUBERCULOSIS (New Cases, Deaths, etc.)
6. TUBERCULOSIS (New Cases, Deaths, 1912-1939).
7. CANCER.
8. VITAL STATISTICS OF NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.
1939.
9. REPORTS ON MILK AND FOOD SAMPLES.
10. INFECTIOUS DISEASES (1936-1939).

TABLE I
BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL
MORTALITY AND CASE NOTES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS
DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1939

Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns

	Willenhall	England and Wales	125 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
	Rates per 1,000 Population				
Births :					
Live 	22.2	15.0	15.6	15.6	12.3
Still 	0.81	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.44
Deaths :					
All Causes 	12.0	12.1	12.0	11.2	11.9
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers 	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox 	0.00	—	—	—	—
Measles 	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Scarlet Fever 	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough 	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Diphtheria 	0.10	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.02
Influenza 	0.28	0.21	0.19	0.20	0.18
Notifications :					
Smallpox 	0.00	0.00	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever 	1.79	1.89	1.96	1.78	1.53
Diphtheria 	1.26	1.14	1.21	1.16	0.98
Enteric 	0.00	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03
Erysipelas 	0.13	0.34	0.40	0.31	0.37
Pneumonia 	1.08	1.02	1.21	0.89	0.99
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths under 1 year of age	49	50	53	40	48
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age 	3.2	4.6	6.3	3.0	8.2
Maternal Mortality :					
Puerperal Sepsis 	1.58	0.77	} Not available		
Others 	—	2.16			
Total 	1.58	2.93			
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)				
Maternal Mortality :					
Puerperal Sepsis 	1.53	0.74	} Not available		
Others 	—	2.08			
Total 	1.53	2.82			
Notifications :					
Puerperal Fever } Puerperal Pyrexia }	9.2	14.35	17.26	12.99	} 3.31 14.22

Sewage Disposal Works.

The fore-going Report of the analysis being far from satisfactory a special report was presented to the Council by the Medical Officer of Health in which recommendations were made as to what steps should be taken to ensure a better effluent.

Among the points mentioned in the report as requiring investigation were the following :—

1. Are the filter beds sufficient in area for the sewage which has to be treated?
2. Are they functioning properly?
3. Are trade effluents adversely affecting the working of the beds?

Samples were taken in August and September of the effluents from the individual filter beds with a view to ascertaining which of the beds were not functioning properly.

The reports showed that in each case the DISSOLVED OXYGEN was higher than the maximum recommended in the Report of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal. (The figures varied from 2.2 (lowest) to 6.7 (highest) parts per 100,000, as against the maximum recommended figure of 1.5 parts per 100,000.)

The effluent, before entering the brook course, is diluted by being made to run into a large pool. From this pool there is an outlet to the stream. It may be said that an analysis of a sample of water taken where the pool overflows into the stream has shown a satisfactory result.

It is a controversial point however whether this can be regarded as an “effluent” in the scientific sense of the word, as there is no guarantee that a satisfactory report on a sample from this point carries with it the assurance that the filter beds are functioning properly. In other words, the dilution itself is being relied on to give a satisfactory result and it may be only a matter of time before the pool becomes putrescent itself, after which the effect of dilution on the effluent would be nil.

The matter is at present still under the consideration of the Council and its Officials.

Back-Pounding from Sewer

In the month of July reports were received that flooding was taking place in the boiler house at the Baths. This was found to be due to "Back-pounding" from the man-hole in connection with the main sewer running behind the baths. In rainy weather the sewer becomes over full and as a result water and sewage flows back into the boiler house and also on to the floor of the laundry. The Council considered this matter and resolved that a scheme be prepared with a view to having the necessary works done to avoid the recurrence of this nuisance.

So far (June 1940) nothing has been done and the nuisance still recurs in wet weather and it is to be hoped that the matter will be put right without delay.

Refuse Disposal

Refuse is disposed of by "tipping" and during the year the tip at the Dingle and that at Lucknow Road have been in use. The Council have now decided to close the former tip and to continue the latter one. It has also been suggested that some other site or sites in the area be used in addition but no definite decision has yet been come to.

While the question of transporting the refuse may make it desirable to have more than one tip in the district in order to avoid long journeys, there is on the other hand the objection that if tips are multiplied and scattered it is obviously more difficult to ensure that no nuisance will arise in connection with one or other of them. In this area we have in the past had the experience of having definite nuisances arise from such tips and it is to be hoped that no further trouble will arise in the future.

Indeed, if "controlled" tipping is properly carried out in the way laid down by the recommendations published by the Ministry of Health, there need be no nuisance of any kind. It is, however, essential that the men who are doing the work should know exactly what to do as otherwise failure is inevitable.

Closet Accommodation

During the year 14 Waste Water Closets were abolished but there are still approximately 1,100 of these in the district.

Twenty-two privies still remain but otherwise all the houses have a water carriage system of disposal although there is not a water closet to each house.

The number of ash pits remains the same as last year. (22).

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Details of all the inspections carried out by the inspectors during the year will be found in the tables at the end of this report.

Swimming Baths

The new baths were opened on Saturday, 15th, April, 1939, and were well patronised during the summer. They were closed on 3rd. September, and by that date a total of 48,517 persons had paid £618-6-10 for admission.

From 3rd. September till 16th. October, the baths were not used for any purpose, although the floor was laid down in preparation for their use as a hall. From Monday, 16th. October, till Saturday, 16th. December, the baths were again opened for swimming, and during this period 2,651 persons paid £63-6-6 for admission.

On Tuesday, 26th. December, the Baths were opened as a Hall and remained open as such till the 30th. March, 1940, during which period approximately £85-0-0 was paid in booking fees.

During the whole of the swimming season 9,362 children from the elementary schools attended the baths. The Staffordshire Education Committee paid for these children's admission the total amount paid being £58-10-3. The children were instructed in swimming by teachers from the respective schools.

The benefit derived by the children must be considerable both as regards their health and pleasure, added to which they have the opportunity of learning to swim.

The total figures and income for the first year were as follows :—

Total admissions to Baths for swimming	51,168
Admission charges paid	£748 0 11
Booking Fees for Hall	£85 0 0

Analysis of Bath Water

Samples were taken in the months of May, June, July, and August. These were on the whole satisfactory, and any minor defects in the working of the plant as revealed by analysis were brought to the attention of the Bath Manager who received a copy of the analysis.

SECTION D

Housing

Full particulars of all inspections carried out and of action taken under the Housing Acts will be found in the table at the end of this report.

The provision of suitable housing accommodation is one of the greatest problems which faces any local authority, and, in spite of what has already been done in this area, the problem here is still of considerable magnitude.

As in former reports this matter may be discussed under four main headings, viz :—

1. The ascertainment and demolition of houses which are unfit to live in and cannot be made fit at a reasonable cost.
With this has to be considered the re-housing of the displaced families.
2. The ascertainment of houses which are defective in one or more respects but which can be made fit at a reasonable cost.
3. The abatement of over-crowding.
The extent of over-crowding was ascertained in 1936 when a complete survey was made and a report sent to the Ministry of Health. (*cf.* Annual Report for 1936).
4. The re-housing in suitable houses of Tubercular Families found to be living in unsatisfactory houses or to be living in over-crowded conditions.

Unfit Houses

The number of houses on which a demolition order was made during the year was forty-three. In addition, one closing order was made. Houses actually demolished numbered thirty-two.

The ascertainment of unfit houses came to an end in September, and the Council's proposed schemes for building new houses have also had to be deferred for the mean-time.

At the Portobello site, where it was intended to build 330 houses, only 36 have so far been completed. (October 1940). At Monmore Lane site where twelve houses were to be built the scheme has not been proceeded with.

The total number of families re-housed during the year was 43 and the number of persons was 195.

New houses completed in 1939 numbered 29 of which 6 were bungalows.

Re-conditioning

During the year some properties have been re-conditioned but these only represent a very small proportion of the houses which require re-conditioning. Some owners have voluntarily carried out repairs and improvements on their property and details will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

As has been mentioned in previous reports there is a considerable amount of property in the area which should be re-conditioned but as no comprehensive survey of it has been carried out yet it is impossible to give any figures regarding the matter. The Sanitary Inspectors deal with the worst cases as their attention is drawn to them.

In the mean-time however owing to the difficulty of obtaining labour and material this work of re-conditioning will be at a stand-still except for matters which require immediate attention.

Over-crowding

Little or no progress has been made in this matter since the survey to ascertain the extent of over-crowding in the area was made in 1935-1936.

For details of the result of the survey reference can be made to the Annual Report for 1936 in which complete particulars are given. Since then the number of cases where over-crowding was abated has been small and has been counter-balanced by the number of new cases reported.

It is deplorable that the effort which was commenced to deal with this important matter should have so far had so little result. That better results have been obtained in other Urban

Districts is indicated by the report of a speech by the Minister of Health in 1938 in which he stated that up to the end of 1937 30% of the over-crowding in Urban Districts throughout the country had been abated. That such a result should have been obtained in other areas and no definite reduction in the number of over-crowded cases have been obtained in this district even three years later appears to be most unsatisfactory indeed. It cannot be too frequently stressed that this problem of over-crowding is one of the most urgent in the area and should be faced and over-come as soon as is at all possible.

Re-housing of Tubercular Families

During the year under review four families in which one or more of the family had Tuberculosis were removed to better houses. A total of 50 such families had been re-housed up to 31st. December, 1939 and this is satisfactory as far as it goes.

There are still about 20 families who are in unsatisfactory homes and in which there is a case of Tuberculosis, but owing to the curtailing of new building it will not be possible to re-house many of these at present.

The death rate from Tuberculosis in this area is still at least 25% above the rate for the whole country and bad housing must be held to be in great part responsible for this state of affairs.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

This work includes the inspection of bake-houses, shops, stalls etc., where food is prepared, handled or exposed for sale and also the inspection of slaughter houses and of the meat supply.

It also includes the supervision of the milk supply.

Work under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1938, is carried out by officials of the County Council and a statement of samples taken during the year together with reports thereon will be found in Table IX.

Milk Supply

In this area there are 9 milk producers and 85 retailers. There is one dairy with a pasteurising plant and during the year improvements have been carried out in this dairy—including the introduction of a modern bottle washing machine—which have resulted in a much better report on the samples taken.

The reports from samples taken at another dairy were not satisfactory and the owner promised to carry out certain alterations to his premises but so far this has not been done and action will have to be taken against the owner.

Under the Food and Drugs Act 46 samples of milk were taken and all but one were satisfactory and genuine. The one sample referred to had a small percentage of added water and the vendor was cautioned.

Of the designated milk samples taken under the Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders (Tuberculin Tested, Accredited, and Pasteurised) all were satisfactory except one of the samples of Accredited Milk which was positive as regards tuberculosis.

Of 49 undesignated samples 24 were found satisfactory as regards cleanliness, and 25 unsatisfactory. Two were found to be tuberculous.

In addition to the above ten samples were taken by the Senior Sanitary Inspector and the results of these are mentioned in his Report.

Milk in Schools Scheme

A total of 2,409 children took advantage of this scheme which is 64% of all children in the schools. Of these 415 got the milk free as the cases were judged to be necessitous. The milk supplied is pasteurised and samples are taken at intervals. These have all been satisfactory during the year.

Meat and Other Foods

The following table shows the results of the inspection of carcasses during the year. It will be seen that 17% of the cattle were affected by disease other than tuberculosis, and that 21% were affected by tuberculosis.

Therefore of all the cattle examined 38% were found to be diseased to a greater or lesser extent. In some cases of course it was only one or more organs which were affected.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	Approximately 75% of all animals slaughtered were inspected			
Number Inspected	504	291	2,004	2,465
All Diseases except Tuberculosis—				
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	4	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	87	—	17	2
Percentage of car- cases affected	17%	—	1%	0.16
Tuberculosis only—				
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	—
Organ or part	107	—	—	168
Percentage of number affected with T.B.	21%	—	—	7%

The total weight of meat destroyed as being unfit for human consumption was 3 tons 2 cwts 78 lbs, and this is about the same amount as in 1938.

As in former years the Slaughter Houses in the district have been visited by the Inspectors and further particulars will be found in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

During the year under review there has been no serious epidemic of any infectious disease. Whooping-cough and Measles became notifiable as from the 1st. November, 1939, but up to the end of the year only nineteen cases of Whooping-cough were notified and none of measles.

The following table shows the total number of all cases notified, the number sent to hospital, and the number of deaths from each disease.

Disease			Number Notified	Number Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	51	33	Nil
Diphtheria	.....	.....	36	33	3
Pneumonia	.....	.....	48	5	14
Erysipelas	.....	.....	4	—	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	.....	.....	6	5	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	.....	.....	1	1	1
Whooping-cough	.....	.....	19	—	—
Totals			165	77	19

Scarlet Fever

This continued to be of a mild type and there were no deaths. It is now generally recognised that it is not necessary for these mild types of Scarlet Fever to be sent to hospital unless the home conditions are such as preclude proper isolation and nursing at home. In this area most of the smaller houses make it impossible to isolate the patient and therefore more cases have to be sent to hospital than would have to be sent if the housing conditions were better.

During the year 65% of cases were sent to hospital. The percentages for previous years have been:—

1936=54%, 1937=57%, 1938=67%.

Of the cases admitted to Hospital one case went to Wolverhampton Borough Hospital, one to Bilston and the remaining thirty-one cases to Goscote.

The following are the number of cases notified in the different Wards of the area during the last five years.

SCARLET FEVER CASES NOTIFIED

Ward	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	Total
St. Giles'	12	21	6	10	7	56
Portobello	4	20	4	7	15	50
St. Annes	16	18	8	3	12	57
St. Stephen's	8	13	8	12	6	47
Short Heath	10	7	2	39	11	69
Totals	50	79	28	71	51	279

The rate of incidence per 1,000 of the population was 1.79 compared with a rate of 1.89 per 1,000 for the whole country.

The death rate was nil, the rate for the country being 0.01 per 1,000.

Diphtheria

During the year 36 cases were notified and of these 33 or 92% were sent to Hospital. In previous years the percentage of cases sent to hospital have been—1935=65%, 1936=85%, 1937=70% and 1938=98%. These figures are satisfactory as it is of importance that Diphtheria patients should be sent to hospital if possible.

Two deaths took place in July, both patients being boys who had never been protected against the disease. In both cases the disease was of the laryngeal type which is usually fatal.

The incidence rate was 1.26 per 1,000 and the death rate 0.10 per 1,000. (England and Wales=1.14 and 0.05.)

The distribution of cases according to wards was as follows (figures are also given for the previous five years) :—

DIPHTHERIA CASES NOTIFIED

Ward	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	Total
Short Heath	13	8	3	4	11	39
St. Giles'	1	5	4	2	1	13
St. Anne's	2	3	3	1	8	17
Portobello	2	3	6	2	8	21
St. Stephen's	2	1	4	2	8	17
Totals	20	20	20	11	36	107

Immunisation against Diphtheria

The work of protecting children against this disease has continued during the year. All the children entering the Infant Departments are offered protection and in addition to this children from 1 to 5 years who attend the Welfare Centres are also offered it.

It will be seen from the table that of 741 children who were offered protection 573 or 77% accepted and this is again very satisfactory.

Taking the last three years it is found that of all children now in the schools of the ages five, six or seven years, 74% are protected. If therefore we can get the same high acceptance rate in the next few years we shall have 75% of all school children protected. This ought to lead to a complete eradication of the disease at these ages and it will be of great interest to see if this result is obtained.

The protection of the children under five has proved a slower matter as the parents are not yet fully aware that it is among these younger children that Diphtheria is most serious of all.

Nevertheless, 234 infants of pre-school age have now been done but this part of the work will have to be speeded up if the young children are to have the same measure of protection as those of school age.

The actual numbers of children under five years who have been immunised in the last four years have been as follows :—

1936	.....	.....	26
1937	.....	.....	30
1938	.....	.....	117
1939	.....	.....	61
Total			<hr/> 234 <hr/>

Every effort has been made to explain to the mothers coming to the Welfare Centres the importance of having their children protected and talks have been arranged by the lecturer appointed by the County Council at each one of the Centres. There are roughly about 2,000 children in this area between the ages of one and five years and it is essential that at least 75% of these will have to be protected if we are to stamp Diphtheria out in this community.

This means that 1,500 of these infants have to be immunised of whom we have so far only done 234. We have already seen that of the children at school nearly 75% of those aged five, six, and seven years are protected and it is hoped that the parents of all children will agree to have them protected when they reach the age of one year.

Undoubtedly the ideal scheme for this work is to offer protection to all infants as soon as they pass their first birthday. It is hoped this year to do so at the Welfare Centres in this area and as 80% of the infants come to the Centres most of them will be reached.

AGE INCIDENCE OF CASES OF DIPHTHERIA 1934-1939

Age Group	Number of Cases Notified						
	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	Total
- 5 years	5	3	7	4	1	7	27
5-10 „	10	7	5	5	6	11	44
10-15 „	4	4	2	4	2	8	24
15-20 „	2	3	3	2	1	2	13
20-35 „	1	3	1	4	—	7	16
35- „	Nil	Nil	2	1	1	1	5
Totals	22	20	20	20	11	36	129

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION 1939

School		Number offered Protection	Number Immunised	Percentage Immunised
Clothier Street	.....	113	105	93
Elm Street	.....	178	124	70
Lanehead	.....	65	45	69
Little London	.....	44	38	87
New Invention	.....	53	38	71
St. Anne's	.....	17	15	88
St. Gile's	.....	79	63	80
Portobello	.....	102	78	78
Walsall Road	.....	63	44	70
St. Mary's	.....	27	23	85
Totals		741	573	77
Totals in	1936	1,507	736	48%
„	1937	531	320	60%
„	1938	701	578	82%
„	1939	741	573	77%
Grand Total		3,480	2,207	63%

In addition to the above numbers 234 children under five years of age have been immunised and twelve children at a private school.

Isolation Hospital Accommodation

During the year cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria have been sent to Goscote Hospital. In a few cases where there was no accommodation available at Goscote cases were admitted to the Wolverhampton Infectious Diseases Hospital or to Bilston Hospital.

91% of the Diphtheria cases and 65% of the Scarlet Fever cases were sent to hospital and this is about the same percentage in each case as in 1938.

It is now usually recognised that all cases of Diphtheria should go to hospital but in the case of mild Scarlet Fever cases hospital treatment is not so necessary. The question of whether to send these latter cases away is one which can only be determined by the circumstances of each case. If it is impossible to get proper isolation and nursing in the home then they are better in hospital. In the majority of the homes in Willenhall it is not possible to isolate cases of infectious disease and therefore the proportion of cases sent to hospital is higher than in areas where housing conditions are better.

New Joint Isolation Hospital

During the year the Joint Hospital Board have considered further the question of a site for the proposed new hospital.

Nothing definite has been decided on and at present the Ministry of Health are not willing to grant permission for the scheme to go on but a site may be chosen.

For the present therefore it would appear that we must make the best use we can of the existing hospitals in South Staffordshire.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases

Chicken Pox was prevalent in the first quarter and Measles in the second but there was no real epidemic of either disease. Whooping cough and Measles were made notifiable in October and up till the end of the year 19 cases of Whooping Cough were notified but none of Measles.

Vaccination against Small Pox

In the year ending 31st. December, 1938, the Vaccination Officer received 51 certificates of successful vaccination. As there were 559 births in the same period the percentage vaccinated was 9%.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases of tuberculosis remains about the same the following being the numbers for the last three years.

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	
	Males	Females	Males	Females		
1937	127	102	31	25	285	
1938	132	99	30	27	287	
1939	127	98	29	27	281	

TABLE II

Causes of Death in Willenhall Urban District during 1939.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
Diphtheria	3	—	3
Influenza	4	4	8
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	—	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	14	6	20
Other Tuberculosis	3	—	3
Tabes Dorsalis	1	—	1
Cancer	17	19	36
Diabetis	—	4	4
Cerebral Haemorrhage	10	10	20
Heart Diseases	35	30	65
Other diseases of circulation	6	10	16
Bronchitis	6	8	14
Pneumonia (all forms)	11	3	14
Other respiratory diseases	1	3	4
Peptic Ulcer	—	1	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2	—	2
Appendicitis	—	1	1
Cirrhosis of liver	1	—	1
Other digestive diseases	2	4	6
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	1	3
Puerperal Sepsis	—	1	1
Congenital Debility & Premature Birth	8	8	16
Senility	8	7	15
Suicide	1	—	1
Other Violence	4	1	5
Other Defined Diseases	17	11	28
Totals	157	132	289

TABLE III
Infantile Mortality during 1939

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total deaths under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Suffocation	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Convulsions	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	3
Broncho Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	1	3	1	2	—	7
Prematurity	9	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	9
Myocarditis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Hydrocephalus	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Castro Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	2
Marasmus	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
White Asphyxia	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Intussusception	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Acute Gastritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Cardiac Failure	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Totals	13	1	—	1	15	4	7	4	1	31

TABLE IV
INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED

Disease	—1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65 and over	Totals
Scarlet Fever	1	—	4	5	2	14	14	5	6	1	—	—	51
Diphtheria	—	1	—	4	2	11	8	2	7	1	—	—	36
Pneumonia	5	1	4	2	1	1	1	2	4	9	9	9	48
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	4
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	5
Totals	6	2	8	11	5	26	23	9	21	17	9	11	145

TABLE V

TUBERCULOSIS**New Cases and Mortality during 1939.**

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
5 to 15 years	3	—	2	1	1	—	1	—
15 to 25 years	3	6	1	—	1	—	—	—
25 to 35 years	1	5	1	—	2	2	1	—
35 to 45 years	2	—	—	—	4	2	—	—
45 to 55 years	4	2	—	—	4	2	—	—
55 to 65 years	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Over 65 years	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	17	13	6	1	14	6	3	—

Notifications

	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total
Rate per 1,000 of population	1.05	0.21	1.26

Deaths

Rate per 1,000 of population	0.70	0.10	0.80
Rate per 1,000 (England and Wales)	—	—	0.63

Statistics of new cases and deaths for the last twenty-eight years in Willenhall are given in Table VI.

TABLE VI

Tuberculosis in Willenhall (including the former Short Heath U.D.) showing the new cases notified and the deaths each year since the commencement of compulsory notification

Year	Population	NEW CASES		DEATHS		Death-rates Willenhall per 100,000
		Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	
1912	23,249	85	—	19	1	86
1913	23,128	87	24	22	13	151
1914	23,222	66	22	21	13	142
1915	23,204	55	11	13	12	107
1916	24,193	65	13	23	11	140
1917	24,750	71	18	28	6	131
1918	23,852	56	8	44	4	201
1919	24,538	29	6	20	7	110
1920	24,028	29	6	14	4	75
1921	24,574	24	—	24	2	105
1922	25,238	55	15	34	7	162
1923	25,586	45	12	30	9	152
1924	25,989	19	5	27	5	123
1925	26,338	67	14	25	10	133
1926	26,564	71	11	24	5	109
1927	26,785	25	12	25	4	109
1928	27,139	39	12	17	3	74
1929	27,039	40	9	34	3	140
1930	27,019	42	3	29	3	118
1931	26,508	36	5	27	1	105
1932	26,498	36	3	16	6	83
1933	27,340	41	11	26	4	101
1934	27,146	45	5	14	5	70
1935	27,220	33	9	25	5	110
1936	27,650	47	5	14	3	61
1937	28,020	44	8	25	6	110
1938	28,100	45	8	22	6	99
1939	28,440	30	7	20	3	80
TOTALS		1,327	262	662	161	

TABLE VII

**Cancer Deaths according to Age-groups and Organs Affected
1939**

Organs Affected	Age-Group								Total	
	—45		45 to 55		55 to 65		65 & over			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Lung	I	—	—	—	I	—	—	2	2	2
Stomach	—	—	—	—	I	I	2	—	3	I
Ureter	—	—	—	—	—	—	I	—	I	—
Peritoneum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	I	—	I
Colon	—	—	—	I	—	—	4	2	4	3
Liver	I	—	—	I	—	—	—	—	I	I
Brain	—	—	—	—	I	—	—	—	I	—
Pancreas	—	—	—	—	—	—	I	I	I	I
Uterus	—	—	—	I	—	—	—	—	—	I
Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Bladder	—	—	—	—	—	—	I	—	I	—
Face	—	—	—	—	I	—	—	—	I	—
Tongue	—	—	—	—	I	—	—	—	I	—
Prostrate	—	—	—	—	—	—	I	—	I	—
Rectum	—	—	—	—	—	—	I	I	I	I
Oesophagus	—	—	—	—	I	—	—	—	I	—
totals	2	—	—	3	6	I	II	9	19	13

Total deaths—32. Death-rate 1.12 per 1,000 of the population.

The death-rate of the whole country has been 1.6 per 1,000 living for the last few years.

TABLE VIII
SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1939
Willenhall and Other Areas

District	Popu- lation	Birth Rate	Death Rate (crude)	Death Rate (Ad- justed)	Infant Mortal- ity Rate	Tuberculosis Death Rates	
						Pul.	Non- Pul.
Willenhall	28,320	22.21	10.1	12.0	49.28	0.70	0.10
Coseley	29,740	22.36	11.09	12.9	55.46	0.7	0.06
Bilston	31,460	19.8	11.4	14.9	64.2	0.18	0.12
Brierley Hill	46,530	17.15	10.89	11.98	50.80	0.60	0.06
Dudley	62,100	17.60	11.37	13.19	70.44	0.90	0.09
Sedgley	20,800	14.69	12.07	13.03	85.53	0.67	0.14
Tipton	37,390	19.93	12.01	14.17	76.40	0.70	0.16
Walsall	107,600	18.28	11.83	13.24	57.68	0.77	0.05
Stafford	32,670	15.8	10.5	10.8	69.0	0.51	Nil

TABLE IX

FOOD AND DRUGS ADULTERATION ACT, 1938

Details of Sampling—1939

Article of Food	Number of Samples	Genuine	Adulterated
Milk	46	45	1
General Foods	16	16	Nil

One sample of Milk contained a very small percentage of added water and the vendor was cautioned.

Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders

Specially Designated Milk

	Cleanliness		Tuberculous	
	Satis.	Unsatis.	Negative	Positive
Tuberculin Tested	2	—	2	—
Accredited	3	1	3	1
Pasteurised	5	—	5	—

All the pasteurised samples passed the phosphatase Test for pasteurisation.

Undesignated Samples

	Cleanliness		Tuberculous	
Number submitted	Satis.	Unsatis.	Negative	Positive
49*	24	25	46	2

* In one case no Biological Test was made.

TABLE X

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED from 1936 to 1939

Disease	1936	1937	1938	1939	Total	Admitted to Hospital	Per Cent. Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	79	28	71	51	229	140	61
Diphtheria	20	20	11	36	87	74	90
Pneumonia	34	45	59	48	186	55	29
Erysipelas	13	13	13	5	44	16	36
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	8	9	5	25	20	80
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	1	1	2	2	100
Enteric Fever	—	—	1	—	1	1	100
Ophthalmia							
Neonatorum	2	3	6	—	11	11	100
Dysentery	2	9	5	—	16	8	50
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	1	—	1	1	100
TOTALS	153	126	177	146	602	328	54

The incidence rate per 1,000 of the population of the six diseases (Small Pox, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, Erysipelas and Pneumonia) is 4.86, the figure for England and Wales being 4.43.

The slightly higher figure for Willenhall is due to the greater prevalence of Pneumonia in the area as compared with the country as a whole.

REPORT

OF THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector,

B. J. DAWSON

Cert. S.I.B.

FOR THE YEAR

1939

A N N U A L R E P O R T

for the year ending DECEMBER 31st, 1939

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

We beg to submit the following report upon the work carried out and the action taken during the year ending 31st. December, 1939.

Infectious Diseases

All cases of Infectious Disease are visited, the necessary particulars obtained, and disinfection carried out. The disinfection is carried out as speedily as possible, and every effort is made to ensure that the family concerned do not lose the use of a bedroom for even one night. Whenever it is necessary to remove articles for steam disinfection, this is done so as speedily as possible, and due to the airing which the articles receive, they are ready for immediate use upon delivery back to the house-hold.

In all 165 notifications were received during the year, and attention was given to the overcrowding and the structural condition of the premises, and, where necessary, the Public Health Committee received the particulars in the Sanitary Inspector's Monthly Report.

Disinfection and Disinfestation

74 dwelling houses were disinfected after cases of Infectious Disease, other than Tuberculosis, and 32 dwelling houses were disinfected for reasons of Tuberculosis.

In all, 135 dwelling houses were disinfested as a result of the presence of vermin being found in varying degrees of severity in each house.

During this year, authority was given for all persons removed from houses upon which Demolition Orders had become operative, to be disinfested prior to removal to Council or private owned houses. This is definitely, in my opinion, a step in the right direction, and I am sure that it will ultimately lead to the eradication of vermin in Council houses.

The system used is to treat the household effects, of the tenant to be moved, in the house which is to be vacated. Thus not only are the goods to be removed free from vermin, but also the house itself is rendered clean. Then when the house is demolished and the scraps of wood given away for fire-wood, these scraps of wood do not constitute a danger, in as much as there is no vermin or the eggs of vermin on this wood, to be carried away in all directions.

159 articles of bedding were removed to the disinfecting station and treated to a steam disinfection before returning to its owner.

Smoke Nuisances

From time to time, attention has been given to smoke abatement and nuisances arising, have, in the majority of cases, been found to be due to unsatisfactory methods of using the machinery provided. The stokers do not realise that there is no more work entailed in using the plant efficiently, and saving fuel for the employers than by using the plant in such a manner emissions of smoke are given off and creating nuisances as well as additional cost of fuel to the employer. In all these cases, the actual stokers have been interviewed, and given advice and instructions as to the best way of using the plant, and this has resulted in many improvements.

Shops Acts

Owing to the time taken up with housing and other work, inspection under these Acts have been limited, and no proceedings were taken for offences under these Acts, concerning Sanitary matters.

Factories and Workshops

From time to time, notices from the Factory Inspector were received and these received immediate attention which resulted in a number of visits being made to the Factories concerned.

Slaughter Houses

During the year a total of 504 cattle, including cows, 291 calves, 2,004 sheep and lambs, and 2,465 pigs were inspected after slaughter within the district.

Towards the end of the year, a full inspection was made of each of the slaughter-house premises, and a full report given to the Public Health Committee, with regard to the existing accommodation of each of the said premises. After the consideration of this report and also taking into consideration the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, certain action was taken which will be included in the report for the year 1940.

A total weight of 3 tons, 2 cwts, 78 lbs, of diseased and unsound meat was surrendered for destruction, and taken to the Council's incinerator where it was burnt.

The particulars concerning the unsound food are found in the table already given.

Milk Supply

During the year, ten samples of milk were taken and submitted to the County Laboratory for Bacteriological examination. These were informal samples, eight undesignated and two pasteurised. Of these ten samples, the two pasteurised were satisfactory, but only four of the undesignated milk was satisfactory. Three of these unsatisfactory samples have eventually been followed by satisfactory samples, but in the one remaining case, it has been found from particulars, for which I am indebted to the County Sanitary Inspector, that this producer has not had a satisfactory sample since 1936.

The condition of the premises of this one producer were reported to the Public Health Committee in 1939, but twelve months after this nothing has been done to improve the unsatisfactory conditions. All this time the milk is being consumed.

In addition, certain samples have been taken, during the year, of accredited milk for and on behalf of the Ministry of Health.

Water Supply

Periodical samples of the Public Water Supply are submitted to the County Laboratory, Stafford for Bacteriological examination, and chemical analysis. The samples in each case are taken from Willenhall and Short Heath respectively, as these two areas each have a different source of supply.

Proceedings

During the year, in all, fifteen summonses have been taken out for various offences, and in each case, the case was heard before a Court of Summary Jurisdiction. The following are the particulars with regard to the various contraventions.

Three convictions were registered under the Provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. In each case it was for failure to stun an animal prior to bleeding to death. The fines imposed were one of £5, and two of £1 each.

An order was obtained under the Provisions of the Housing Act, for the tenant to vacate a condemned house within one month. The Demolition Order had expired upon this particular house for some considerable time, prior to proceedings being taken.

An order was obtained under the Provisions of the Public Health Acts for certain work to be carried out within three months, and the defendant had to pay 13s. costs.

Eight summonses were taken out concerning the acceptance of rags and bones from children under 14, and giving them certain articles in exchange for the said rags and bones. Two of the summonses were not served due to a fictitious name and address having been given and in the other six cases, convictions were registered and fines imposed varying from £5 to 10s. respectively.

Two cases concerning the seizure of unsound fruit exposed for sale in the market and deposited in preparation for the purpose of sale in the market, were dismissed as it was contended that the ownership of the premises had not been proved.

Housing

During the year, forty-three Demolition Orders and one Closing Order were made under the Provisions of the Housing Acts.

Details of these houses will be found in the table at the end of my report.

In all 32 houses were demolished due to the occupants having been re-housed in either private or Council Houses.

During this year, particular interest was paid to the property being considered for demolition, as it was the Council's intention to provide a large number of houses for slum clearance purposes on the Portobello Housing Site. This would in no way have ended the Council's slum clearance programme but at least it would have relieved the present unsatisfactory conditions existing in the town, as it is known that there are at least one thousand houses which should be considered for demolition. Again added to this, is the overcrowded conditions of many houses, due to a serious attempt not having been made to provide suitable alternative accommodation for overcrowding.

It is most regrettable that now in 1940, the Council are only allowed to continue to complete approximately one half of the houses for which contracts were accepted during 1939, for completion on the Portobello site.

Due to attention having been given mostly for the inspection of houses scheduled for consideration as individual unfit houses, reconditioning has not been carried out on an extensive scale, but there has been a number of notices served on property considered capable of repair and the notices have in due course been carried out.

Travelling around the district, I have noticed from time to time, that certain owners have been voluntarily putting their property into a reasonable condition without waiting official action from this Council. This is a sign that at least a certain section of the owners of property realise that if only they kept their property in a reasonable condition, it would be impossible for this Council to justly serve Demolition Orders on working class property so kept in good repair. Again, from time to time, I have been approached by owners for specifications for rendering property owned by them into a reasonable condition of repair, and in these cases, help and advice has gladly been given to the best of my ability.

Improvements

From time to time improvements continue to be carried out under the various Acts and Orders, and details of these are given in a table at the end of this report.

The number of improvements carried out was 1,343.

During the year, the attention if the Council was drawn to the existing condition of the Dingle tip, cesspools at the rear of houses in Wood Lane, Short Heath, and the Sewage Disposal works at Willenhall.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

B. J. DAWSON, Cert. S.I.B.

Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE A

SUMMARY OF NOTICES AND IMPROVEMENTS

Number of inspections under Public Health and Housing							
Acts	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,080
Number of Preliminary Notices served	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	238
Ditto Complied with	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	217
Number of Statutory Notices served	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21
Ditto Complied with	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
Total number of improvements carried out in accordance							
with notices	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,343

TABLE B

Improvements and other work carried out during 1939

Walls rough-cast or cement rendered externally	21
Defective roof repaired	68
Defective inside walls repaired	184
Defective chimneys repaired	30
Defective windows repaired or renewed	60
Defective walls repointed	63
Defective floors repaired or renewed	55
Defective eaves guttering and spouting repaired	44
Defective ceilings repaired	21
Defective drains opened and repaired	23
Defective cellar steps repaired	3
Defective water tanks repaired	2
Skirting boards repaired	8
New drains provided	29
New water closets complete	22
Waste water closets taken out	14
Water closets in place of W.W.C's	22
Water closets repaired	26
New sinks provided in place of brick sinks	8
Sink wastes repaired	2
New sinks provided	16
Water supply provided	20
Paving of yards repaired	25
Vans removed	9
Ashbins provided in place of ashpits and renewals	131
Sundry defects	12
Food stores provided	6
Handrails to staircases provided	18
Staircases repaired	26
Pantry repaired	9
New wash-house complete	15
Washing coppers repaired or renewed	18
Inspection chambers repaired or provided	9
Ventilation provided in pantry	6
Houses cleansed	4
Doors repaired	28
Trade refuse removed	2
Stagnant water removed	1
Water removed from cellars	5
Wash-houses repaired	10
Walls redecorated	244
Firegrates repaired	15
Urinal provided	1
Broken Manhole cover repaired	1
Defective cooking range repaired	6
Defective drains unstopped	868

TABLE C
DEMOLITION OF UNFIT HOUSES

Address	Number of houses	Number of persons displaced and re-housed
No. 5, Wolverhampton Street	1	4
No. 6, Wolverhampton Street	1	7
No. 7, Wolverhampton Street	1	6
House 2, Ct. 2, Wolverhampton Street	1	8
No. 33, New Street Portobello	1	3
No. 34, New Street, Portobello	1	3
No. 35, New Street, Portobello	1	2
No. 102, Wood Street	1	4
No. 103, Wood Street	1	7
No. 104, Wood Street	1	3
No. 105, Wood Street	1	3
No. 26, Stafford Street	1	3
No. 27, Stafford Street	1	4
No. 28, Stafford Street	1	6
No. 16, King Street	1	1
No. 17, King Street	1	4
No. 18, King Street	1	5
No. 1, Ct. 4, Wednesfield Road	1	2
No. 10, Bloxwich Road, Willenhall	1	2
No. 11, Bloxwich Road, Willenhall	1	10
No. 93, Bloxwich Road, Willenhal	1	6
No. 94, Bloxwich Road, Willenhall	1	3
No. 95, Bloxwich Road, Willenhall	1	3
No. 96, Bloxwich Road, Willenhall	1	1
Pool Hayes Cottage, off Coppice Lane	1	7
No. 56, Monmore Lane	1	4
No. 57, Monmore Lane	1	2
No. 58, Monmore Lane	1	6
No. 59, Monmore Lane	1	9
No. 60, Monmore Lane	1	6
No. 61, Monmore Lane	1	8
No. 62, Monmore Lane	1	6
No. 63, Monmore Lane	1	2
No. 64, Monmore Lane	1	5
No. 65, Monmore Lane	1	3
No. 66, Monmore Lane	1	2
No. 67, Monmore Lane	1	3
No. 68, Monmore Lane	1	8
No. 69, Monmore Lane	1	5
No. 10, Ct. 1, Wolverhampton Street	1	5
No. 11, Ct. 1, Wolverhampton Street	1	7
No. 12, Ct. 1, Wolverhampton Street	1	3
No. 13, Ct. 1, Wolverhampton Street	1	4
Totals	<u>43</u>	<u>195</u>

CLOSING ORDER

No. 22, Wolverhampton Street

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